

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 10, 11, 18 and 23 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections.

Independent Claim 44 has been rejected as anticipated by Flickinger '634 and certain of the dependent claims rejected on the same basis or on Flickinger combined with Junji or Kubozuka.

It is submitted that Claim 44 is not anticipated by Flickinger because Flickinger does not disclose a bushing assembly having a stamped metal base plate as called for in Claim 44. Fig. 5 and column 5, lines 60-65, disclose only a metal base but not a stamped part.

Such metal base plates in the prior art are made by turning or casting procedures and the openings are formed by drilling. Due to the shape and the necessity for the claimed retention structure, manufacturing such base plates utilizing cutting or casting techniques is very expensive and in many cases productive of significant waste material, particularly the shape cutting of the undercuts.

The problem to be solved is how to create a metal fixing material bushing that has high strength with low material content and low manufacturing cost. This problem is solved by the invention as defined by Claim 44 by punching or stamping of the metal base plate and forming by such stamping the undercuts which form the retention structure. Utilizing stamping techniques makes it possible to produce metal base plate bushings at a low cost but with the required very high press out strength. Stamping of the metal base plate with the openings and undercuts enables the parts to be produced with one production step only. Such a stamped and punched part can be thinner than with a machined part, but the disadvantage of the short length of the opening from the front to rear side is overcome by providing the retention structure between the front and rear sides in the stamping operation.

It is therefore submitted that Claim 44 and the claims dependent thereon are not anticipated by Flickinger. The secondary references fail to supply the deficiencies of Flickinger '634.

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It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date